7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

THE VOYAGE

OF

CAPTAIN DON FELIPE GONZALEZ

IN THE SHIP OF THE LINE SAN LORENZO,
WITH THE FRIGATE SANTA ROSALIA IN COMPANY,

TO

EASTER ISLAND

IN 1770—1:

PRECEDED BY AN EXTRACT FROM
MYNHEER JACOB ROGGEVEEN'S OFFICIAL LOG
OF HIS DISCOVERY OF AND VISIT TO
EASTER ISLAND,
IN 1722.

TRANSCRIBED, TRANSLATED, AND EDITED
BY
BOLTON GLANVILL CORNEY,
Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

CAMBRIDGE:
PRINTED FOR THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY.
MDCCCCVIII.

[TITLE PAGE]

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

NARRATIVE[1]

OF

THE EXPEDITION UNDERTAKEN BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY DON MANUEL DE AMAT, VICEROY OF PERU,

IN THE SHIP SAN LORENZO
AND THE FRIGATE SANTA ROSALIA,
FROM THE HARBOUR OF EL CALLAO DE LIMA

TO THE

ISLAND OF DAVID,
in 1770.

[1] Probably from the pen of Sub-Lieut. Don Juan Hervé, First Pilot, or senior Navigating Officer, of the *San Lorenzo*.

[p. 112 blank]
[p. 113]

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

NARRATIVE

of the Expedition undertaken from the Port of The Callao to the ISLAND OF DAVID by order of His Excellency Señor Don Manuel de Amat, Viceroy of Peru *etc.*, who for that purpose gave instructions to prepare H.M. ship of the line *San Lorenzo*, under the command of Commodore Don Felipe Gonzalez, and the frigate *Santa Rosalia*, under Captain Don Antonio Domonte, which sailed on the 10th of October, 1770, taking for their point of departure lat. 12° S., and long. 298° 30′ from the meridian of Tenerife. 122

On the 24th of the said month we found ourselves in lat. 27° and long. 283° 31′: we had the wind aft and were heading W., corrected, in accordance with the orders and instructions which our Commodore held, by which he was also to lie to every night so soon as we should arrive at the meridian beyond which he had not passed in his many other voyages. 010

On the 10th of November, at 6 o'clock in the morning, we saw for the first time some five or so birds known as black petrels[1]; and at that hour we were in lat. 27° and long. 268° 20′. Later on we saw three of the birds they

[1] The term here used is *pardelas prietas*. Caballero, in his *Diccionario de la Lengua Castellana* (Bibliog. no. 12), defines *pardela* as a South American bird something larger than a dove, or pigeon, which flies to a great distance from land, and soars high. Lorenzo and his collaborateurs in the *Diccionario Marítimo Español* (Bibliog. no. 33) have adopted the same description. Experience and other references (among whom Frézier, who calls them in French *damiers* and mentions their black and white plumage and pigeon-like flight) point to the probability of the sooty petrel or the Cape pigeon, being here meant; and the voyagers would be likely to begin to meet with either of these birds about the latitude mentioned when sailing southwards.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

call *tixeretas*[1], on account of the way they have of imparting to their tails an opening and closing movement like scissor blades.

On the 11th we saw a great abundance of other birds during the afternoon.

On the 13th the aforementioned birds were seen in still greater numbers, and among them one kind all white, about the size of a cinnamon dove such as they call *tereques*[2]: the other ones, terns, screamed in the air like parrokeets. On this day at noon we were in lat. 27° 4′, and long. 265° 32′. The variation of the needle was here observed to be 3° 16′ N.E.[3]

On the 14th we found ourselves, at half-past seven in the morning, with very little wind, and made a signal to the frigate for her captain and such officers as could be spared to come on board of us, which, however, they asked permission to defer until after they had breakfasted; when we all, from both vessels, assembled together in the chief cabin. Our Commodore then directed, in the presence of all, that the instructions and commands which he held from the Viceroy be read aloud by the paymaster of this ship, which was done. He then stated, before all, that although his orders only required him to go as far as long. 264° yet nevertheless he was minded to continue on while so many birds remained in sight, and that he had called us all together in order that we should communicate our views to

[1] The *tixereta*, or as spelt now-a-days *tijereta*, is the tern, probably the common white tern of the Pacific Ocean, *Gygis candida*. The Spanish word for scissors is *tijeras*: whence *tijeretear*, to clip. Our sailors usually, but unscientifically, call these birds 'sea-swallows.' They might well be styled 'clipper birds,' both on account of their shears-like tails and wing-tips, and of their graceful form and speedy flight.

[2] The *tereque* or *terek* appears to be the godwit—*Scolopax terek*, according to M. Charles D'Orbigny in his *Dictionnaire Universel d'Histoire Natural* (Bibliog. no. 42); or, as quoted by Lesson, *Limicula indiana*. It belongs to a sub-genus of the Limosae.

[3] Or, as we should express it by the English Method, 3° 16′ Easterly.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

him. All agreed in the Commodore's opinion, since it coincided with their own. At half-past two in the afternoon those of the frigate returned on board of her, and we resumed our course as before.

On this same day, at six in the evening, some sand-pipers appeared[1]. These birds are accustomed to fly no more than about fifteen leagues from land; and we remained hove to for the night.

On the 15th at five in the morning we made all sail, and at seven o'clock we sighted an island to the N.W. of us, from 8 to 10 leagues distant. We headed for it, and upon finding ourselves within some three leagues of its Eastern coast we saw it to be all bold and rock-bound, on account of which at noon we decided to bear up for the Northern side and see whether we might find any harbour round there. At this time our position was ascertained by observation to be in lat. 27° 15′ S. and long. 264° 20′, so that the other point[2] should be in 27° 06′ of lat. South, and therefore 34° 10′ to the westward of the meridian of Callao, measured by the arc, or the equivalent of a chord of 30° 30′. On this island we bestowed the name of San Carlos, being that of the reigning king.

From the 6th of November[3], which was the day on which we sighted the petrels, until we reached the island of San Carlos, we steered W. a distance of 86 leagues, and the terns were seen for the same distance at the same time.

---

[1] For 'sandpipers' the MS. has *chorlitos*, a name which is variously given in dictionaries and works on natural history as sand-pipers, waders, curlew, plover, redshanks, and the genus *Longirostres* generally. M. D'Orbigny (Bibliog. no. 42) mentions a 'Chorlite des Indes,' *Rhynchoea alba*: and says *chorlito* is a name given freely in Spain to any of the 'chevaliers' and 'échassiers,' which we generically term waders.

[2] i.e. the N.E. point of the island.

[3] This may be a copyist's error. The day on which the petrels were recorded was the 10th. Agüera mentions them on the 12th as having been met with on the previous day, in his journal. Gonzalez himself does not mention them in his log.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

131 From the 13th of the said month, when we saw so many birds, and amongst them the white ones and the first of these, we continued sailing W. for a distance of 32 leagues; and from the time we saw the sandpipers [*chorlitos*] as far as the island we sailed 10 leagues, so that when we saw them the island lay to the N.W. of us, 13½ leagues off, for which reason we sailed on that course after having sighted the sandpipers and the island: these remarks are interesting only for navigators.

133 [202] On the 15th, after bearing up at noon in quest of a harbour on the north side of the island we noticed, as we closed in with the land, that there were people on shore who were making signals to us by means of smoke, in several parts of this new land; and when we had rounded the north-easternmost point, called after San Felipe, we saw a bay which appeared might prove a good harbour, being then about half a league distant; and we lowered a boat into the water. I embarked in her with Don Alberto Lesuda[1], Captain of Marines, a serjeant, six men, the boat duly equipped, and all hands provided with their respective arms, proceeding with the precaution and care appropriate to the business in hand.

We went in to take soundings of the bay without being acquainted with the character of the natives, or whether they possessed canoes or not. We left the ship at a quarter

---

[1] The officer here meant by 'Lesuda,' and in a place where cited farther on as 'Leonda,' is Don Alberto Olaondo, whose substantive rank was that of Teniente de Navio, or a senior Lieutenant in the Navy, although, by a not unusual complication of dignities in that service he was also a Capitan de Infanteria, or as we should say, an officer of Marines. He subsequently received promotion, and in 1779 when war was declared with England he commanded the *Atlante*, a 70 gun ship of the line which formed one of the fleet under the Marqués de Casa Tilly assembled in the Bay of Cadiz to oppose Rodney. His old Easter Island comrades Don Antonio Domonte, and Don Buenaventura Moreno, were also present there, commanding the *San Eugenio* and the *San Nicolas* respectively, each of 70 guns. [Travieso, Bibliog. no. 50.]

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

past three in the afternoon, and proceeded to take soundings shorewards. We got no bottom until quite close in, where I found thirty fathoms; and from thence to the beach a very foul bottom of rocks, gravel, and coral; from thirty to forty fathoms I found coarse sand, but with a few large round stones: this might serve [to bring up in] nevertheless for a short time, while searching for a better anchorage.

At the time we set about taking soundings the frigate's boat came along for the same purpose, in which was Don Buenaventura Moreno, Captain of Marines, similarly armed and equipped; and when we drew close in to the shore taking soundings, we saw several natives of the country on the beach shouting to us in their language, of which we understood nothing. These were naked, and painted, body and face. When I had made an examination of the bottom I returned on board my ship, and the other boat to hers: I explained the quality of the ground to the Commodore, and having arrived somewhere about 6 o'clock in the evening he decided not to move away from the place until the following day[1].

On the 16th at half-past five in the morning I started away from the ship's side in the cutter, and proceeded to take up a position where the boat anchorage was, to serve as a mark for the ship, which came in and let go in 35½ fathoms, coarse sand; and having laid out another anchor in 50 fathoms, she swung to with 28 under the keel, same bottom. The leading marks for this position are the small saddle-shaped hill bearing S. 3° W., with Cape San Lorenzo E. ¼ S.E. 3° E. by the needle, which in this locality has 3° of variation N.E.

[1] This sentence, taken by itself, sufficiently proves that the author of this journal was an officer of the *San Lorenzo*, and not of the frigate.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

609 While acting as a beacon as above stated and awaiting
431 the arrival of the ship, three of the natives swam off, [their bodies] painted in various colours, and keeping near the boat, shouting constantly, until one of them came at last so close as to present me with a morsel of yam: I gave him some biscuit and tobacco, all of which he accepted. He carried his provisions in a satchel neatly plaited of fine
609 straw. When the ship came to an anchor these three went
481 off ashore again, but returned with another swimming and making straight for the ship, on board of which they climbed with much agility, shouting all the while and exhibiting much gayness of spirit. They ran about freely from stem to stern, and full of mirth, climbing about the rigging like sailormen. [Our people] played the *caxa* and fife to them, and they began to dance, evincing great
609 pleasure. They were given ribbons, shirts, trousers, seamen's jumpers, and small gilt metal crosses: they accepted them all with gladness, the biscuit they received without remark until they saw our people eat some. It pleased them well and then they asked for it, and applied themselves freely to the consumption of salt pork and rice, &c.

000 On the said 16th of November we embarked at one o'clock in the day, Don Cayetano Lángara, senior lieutenant, Don Pedro Obregon, midshipman, a serjeant, a corporal of marines, a gunner, some marines and myself, in the launch, fully armed and equipped for service, with orders to make a complete circuit of the island in company with the *Rosalia's* launch, with her officer Don Demetrio Ezeta, senior lieutenant, each one fitted with a swivel gun in the bows. We set to work to take soundings, giving names to the points, bays, &c., as shown on the plan of the island. At half-past six in the evening we brought to in a cove which we called after Lángara: we tried to effect a landing but this was not practicable as the sea was breaking with such force all along the shore, which was rocky at all

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

points; and during the remainder of the day the only place we found fit to land at was the cove of San Juan, as it had a sandy beach. We did not disclose our presence there, in order not to lose time. We considered that it must have a plentiful supply of fresh water, because we saw there more gravel [*chacaras*] than in any other part of the island. We also found the best anchorage for ships.

On the 17th of the said [month], day dawned with the horizon clear, and a moderate breeze from the Eastward. At five in the morning we got under way in both launches and made sail towards the Cape of San Antonio. Half a league before reaching the cape we came abreast of a point, off which were a quantity of rocks or boulders sticking up out of the water; and saw that two little canoes were coming out from among them with two men in each, making for the *Santa Rosalia's* launch; so we waited for them in order that they might join our party. They gave the people of the said launch plantains, Chili peppers, sweet potatoes and fowls; and in return our men gave them hats, *chamorretas*, &c., and they went off contentedly with these to the shore. These canoes are constructed of five extremely narrow boards (on account of there being no thick timber in the country) about a *cuarta*[1] in width; they are consequently so crank that they are provided with an outrigger to prevent them from capsizing; and I think that these are the only ones in the whole of the island. They are fitted together with wooden pegs in place of nails. Then we passed on to examine the rocky islets to which we gave the name of 'Lángara': they lie S.W. ¼S. from the cape of San Cristoval, the seaward one being about a mile off that headland, and the inshore one in between. They are about half a cable apart the one from

[1] A *cuarta* is a quarter of a *vara* or yard, and may be roughly translated a 'span.'

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

133 the other, and we found 26 fathoms there, rocky bottom. The middle one resembles a high church tower; we attempted to gain a footing on it, but found it little accessible. We passed on to the outer one, where we 136 succeeded in landing, and on which we found two large masses of seaweed, many black flints, some sea urchins and small crabs, eggs of sea-gulls and their fledgelings. On these rocks alone did we see any sea-gulls, and excepting fowls we saw no other kind of birds on either of the other islets, nor on the island of San Carlos, either small or large, wild or domesticated. The islanders breed [235] these fowls in little runs scraped out in the ground and thatched over.

Having made an investigation of these islets we pursued our course along the coast, at times under sail, at other times under oars; and, the wind holding contrary, at three o'clock in the afternoon we stood in towards a smooth patch of foreshore about a league away to the N.E. of Cape San Francisco. Here we decided to bring up for the night in a small bay which appeared to us to be a suitable place for the purpose, and to which we gave the appellation of the Cave, because there was one adjoining the beach at this place with furrows in it of various tints, from which the natives gave us to understand by signs they obtained the pigments with which they paint themselves. This bay is only suitable for launches. We all went ashore to eat our 439 dinner, which we carried with us for that purpose, and some 609 hundred or so natives came to look on, offering us fruits and hens. The officer, Don Cayetano de Lángara, issued orders to our people that no one, under pain of a severe flogging, should accept any article from the islanders without giving some equivalent in return, or something of greater value than that which they received, since it was known there was a disposition to exchange articles; and such in fact was put into practice.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

When we sat down to eat we noticed that they all withdrew, and that only one remained, as if to watch; I ordered my servant to give this one a little cooked rice and salt pork, all of which he ate and found much to his taste. When we had finished dinner we betook ourselves for a stroll on the island: our people were again warned to do no injury to the natives nor to their plantations. When we had walked up the slope of the beach we found all those whom we had previously seen, and we passed over in a body without saying anything to them until they, putting aside their shyness, came close up to our people and conducted us to see a long dwelling-house which was about a quarter of a league off. This house was 27 paces in length, 2½ *varas* high at the centre, and 1¼ *varas* at the ends, more or less; and at the middle part was a doorway 1 *vara* in height. It was framed on some six poles of 4 *varas* long, and a span[1] in thickness. After having shown us this sumptuous edifice, they began to sing and to dance by way of paying us a compliment and being very happy at seeing us. We walked about two leagues, and at that distance (throughout which many islanders accompanied us) we saw a plantain garden which stretched about a quarter of a league in extent, and was about half that distance in breadth. There were other small plantain gardens, and several plantations and fields of sugar-cane, sweet potatoes, taro, yams, white gourds, and plants like those whose leaves are employed at the Callao for making mats. We saw a root which they chew and daub their bodies and limbs all over with: it is good for yielding a very fine yellow dye[2]. At dusk we made back to our launches to stay the night, without our peaceful relations with the natives having been

[1] *Un 'xeme,'* i.e. *jeme*, the distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the forefinger.

[2] No doubt this refers to turmeric—a common plant in most Pacific islands.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

609 in any way disturbed, which may be attributed to the order which the officer gave our men not to give them any offence, backed by the threat of a flogging, without which our marines and seamen would have destroyed these poor wretches' plantations.

133 The morning of the 18th broke fine, with the wind from North: we continued along the coast, which is all surf-bound, sounding as we went. At 8 o'clock the frigate's launch, not being able to make any headway against the wind, put into a small bay to wait for it to calm down; and we ourselves reached the cove of the Campana[1] under oars at 5 in the afternoon, in order to stay there the night. We stepped ashore there and some islanders came to receive us, but a shower of rain made us turn back to our launch for the night. On that side of this cove towards the headland of San Felipe a rock shaped like a bell juts out from the shore, and from this the cove derives its name.

We made sail at daybreak on the 19th with the wind at N. and fine weather, for the headland of San Felipe, where we were joined by the other launch, who reported that they had no news. At this time we were battling with the current, against which we were not able to make any headway with the oars, and which was running to the eastward. The frigate's launch, being smaller than ours, was able to get along better than we, and those on board seeing us contending against the persistence of the current, sent us the cutter with a fresh crew to relieve our men, who were done up. Yet the current made itself felt with such force that after pulling from 9 a.m. until 6 o'clock in the evening we had scarcely made one league of distance from Cape San Felipe. At this hour, however, God favoured us with a thunder squall accompanied by rain and a change of wind from N.W. to S.E., which brought us alongside at half-past seven

[1] i.e. Bell cove = *Caleta de la Campana.*

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

o'clock, thus terminating our expedition without other adventures than already related. 133

We were satisfied that the roadstead in which we lay at anchor is the best the whole island affords, excepting that of San Juan, to which we did not remove, as we should so soon be leaving this country again, inasmuch as there only remained for us to take possession of it in the name of the King. 648

On the 20th, at daybreak, all the seamen bearing arms embarked in the launches and cutters of both vessels, under Don Alberto Olaondo[1], Captain of Marines, with his party of marines and those from the frigate, who together made up 250 men. All these proceeded towards the interior of the island to survey the country. Our Commander [*segundo capitan*], Don José Bustillos[2], went with another body of marines and seamen, and the two chaplains, who conveyed with them three crosses to be erected on three hill-tops which, as may be seen on the Plan, exist at the N.E. point of the island.

A great number of the native inhabitants received them on landing, and offered to assist our officers in the disembarkation, which, in fact, they did; and took charge of the three crosses, which they carried up to the said hills: the chaplains chanting Litanies, and the islanders joining with our people in the responses, *ora pro nobis*. At the moment of digging the hole on the centre hill, a fine spring of fresh water broke out, very good and abundant. The crosses being planted the party fired three volleys of musketry, and the ships replied with twenty-one guns each, to the joyful shout of *Viva el Rey*. The islanders responded [153] with our own people; they pronounce with such ease that they repeat whatever is said to them just like ourselves. This undertaking being achieved we all returned on board.

---

[1] 'Leonda' in the MS.; evidently Capt. Olaondo is again meant.

[2] 'José Gustillo' in the MS.; evidently Josef Bustillos is intended.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

It need not be said that the islanders were terrified at the noise of the gunfire and musketry: that must happen to people who have not used or seen such inventions.

The women made use of wraps or cloaks: one which covers them from the waist downwards, and another about the breasts. There are others also who wear only a rag or strip of some root, which they place in front like the men. They have several very low and small huts, and some like the one first mentioned.

Throughout the island, but especially near the sea-beach, there are certain huge blocks of stone in the form of the human figure. They are some twelve yards in height, and I think they are their idols. They could not bear to see us smoke cigars: they begged our sailors to extinguish them and they did so. I asked one of them the reason, and he made signs that the smoke went upwards; but I do not know what this meant or what he wished to say.

I fancy that the cloaks or wraps of the said islanders are made from the fibres of stems of the banana plant, which, when dry, they put together as may suit their purpose[1]: it is not woven, but is joined together by strands of the same material which they thread on bone needles of the size of a cloak-maker's needle. They make fishing-lines of this same fibre, as well as nets after the fashion of our small nets; but of little strength.

They have very little wood; but if they were to plant trees there would be no lack of it; and I believe that even

[1] The material was really the white inner bark of the paper mulberry tree (*Broussonettia papyrifera*); and the thread used for attaching the segments together was probably made from the *Hibiscus tiliaceus* bark. A Spanish naval officer may well be excused for falling into this error, as the employment of the fibre of *Musa textilis*, known to him as *abacá* and to ourselves as 'Manila hemp,' would doubtless have come under his observation in the Philippine Islands; and perhaps his running rigging may have been made of it even in those days.

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

the cotton plant would yield, as the country is very temperate: and wheat, garden plants, pot-herbs, &c. They dye their cloaks yellow.

The number of the inhabitants, including both sexes, will be from about nine hundred to a thousand souls: and of these very few indeed are women,—I do not believe they amount to seventy—and but few boys. They are in hue like a quadroon, with smooth hair and short beards, and they in no way resemble the Indians of the South American continent; and if they wore clothing like ourselves they might very well pass for Europeans. They eat very little, and have few needs: they do altogether without liquor of any kind.

On the 21st at noon we put to sea from this Island of David: we sailed some 70 leagues to the Westward to see whether any more land lay in that direction.

On the 23rd we hauled to the Southward until we reached the lat. 38° 30′ and long. 263° 31′, where we arrived on the 29th. On this track, on the 24th, in lat. 29° 30′, long. 261° 30′ at 6 in the afternoon, we saw ten or twelve white birds, and terns, and again some godwits, an indication of some island. The Commodore decided not to search for it at this juncture, deeming that the time was already short for going to Chiloe, and intending to look for it on the return voyage as the latitude was one in which the quest might be pursued at any season of the year.

From the longitude of 263° 31′ we stood away East as far as 281° along the parallel of 38½°, without meeting with any sign; and from that position we proceeded to Chiloe.

[Here this Journal ends; but a note is appended to it in one of the two MS. copies at the Academy of History, to the following effect:—

"This is a copy of the one which the aged Captain and Pilot of these seas, Don Domingo Josef Vasqués, had in

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

114 his keeping, on old paper, in a very small French-looking handwriting, and in grey ink. The narrative agrees entirely with another in a different handwriting, written four years after the exploration of the island, which was in the possession of Don Bartholomé de la Parra, a very old resident in this city, with the difference that Parra's copy concludes by saying, "This information relates to the Island of David (now called after San Carlos) which lies in lat. S. 27° 06′ and in long. 264° 20′ from the meridian of Tenerife. On board the frigate *Nra. Sra. de la Soledad*, 26th of August, 1774."—It agrees with the plan of the said island which I got more than 30 years ago, drawn during the expedition, and which we forwarded to the Hydrographic Office by H.M. ship *Asia* in January, 1815. And although the author is not made known in either of them, their contents correspond in substance with that which the above-mentioned Don Domingo José Vazqués informed me had been written by Lieut. Don Juan Hervé, the senior navigating officer of the *San Lorenzo*.

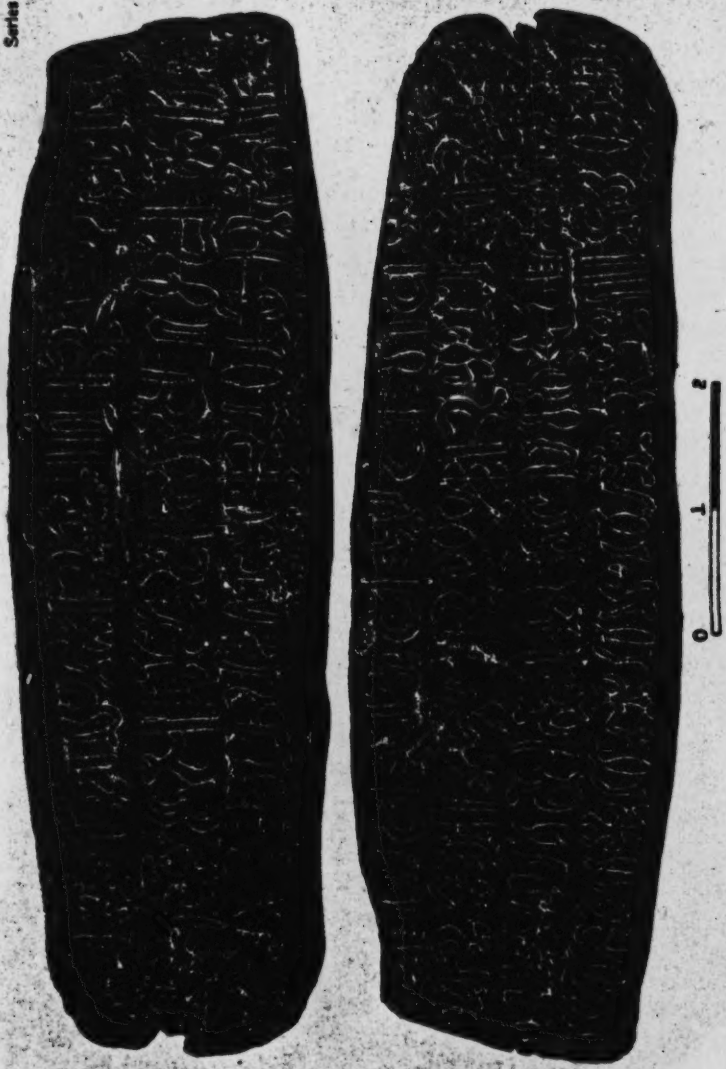
Lima, 7 December, 1815,

Baleato."

The other copy at the Academy of History was made at San Fernando on October 21st, 1824, by Raphael Maestre, and is bound up in the same volume.]

7: Anonymous T-5 (1770)1908
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

212



INSCRIBED TABLETS FROM EASTER ISLAND,
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

(Reproduced for the Hakluyt Society by permission of the Royal Anthropological Institute)

[FACING p. 128]